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BLABY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A N N U A L   R E P O R T  
of the  
M E D I C A L   O F F I C E R   O F   H E A L T H  
for the year 1940.  
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2.

ANNUAL REPORT.

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1940

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Annual Report on the Health of your District for the year 1940.

I succeeded the late Dr. J.E. O'Connor, who had been your M.O.H. for many years, on July 1st, 1940. I only acted as your M.O.H., therefore, for the second half of the year under review. For this reason, and also because of the exigencies of the times, need for economy, etc., this report has been abbreviated and condensed to a large extent.

The Registrar General's estimate of the (civilian) population is 34,180, a slightly higher figure being used for calculating the Birth Rate. X

Births,	legitimate	M. 290	F. 241	Total	531
"	illegitimate	M. 6	F. 14	Total	20
	Totals:-	<u>296</u>	<u>255</u>		<u>551</u>
Birth-rate ...	...	...	...	...	15.8
Birth-rate for England & Wales			...	...	14.6
Still-births. 16 (including 1 illegitimate)					
Deaths.	Males 173.	Females 180.		Total	353
Non-civilian deaths are excluded.					
Crude Death-rate ...	...	...	...	...	10.2
Comparative death-rate (i.e. allowing for sex and age distribution)					10.7
Death-rate for England & Wales			...	...	14.3
Deaths of Infants under one year of age					
	(all legitimate)		...		22
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 births			...	...	40
Infant Mortality Rate for England & Wales				...	55



<u>Causes of Death.</u>						<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
<u>No. of</u> <u>R. G.</u> <u>Group.</u>							
	<u>All Causes.</u>					173	180
1,3,4.	Typhoid, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough					0	0
2.	Cerebro-Sp. Fever ... ..					1	1
5.	Diphtheria ... ..					3	2
6.	Respiratory Tuberculosis ... ..					4	11
7.	Other tuberculosis ... ..					1	1
8.	Syphilitic Diseases ... ..					2	0*
9.	Influenza ... ..					9	10
11 & 12.	Polio-myelitis, encephalitis ... ..					0	1
13 - 16.	Cancer, malignant diseases ... ..					27	14
17.	Diabetes ... ..					5	3
18.	Cerebral haemorrhage etc. ... ..					14	14
19.	Heart Disease ... ..					25	41
20.	Other circulatory diseases ... ..					7	4
21.	Bronchitis ... ..					10	7
22	Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..					3	6
23.	Other respiratory diseases ... ..					2	1
24.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ... ..					2	0
25.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ... ..					0	1
26.	Appendicitis... ..					2	0
27.	Other digestive diseases ... ..					5	3
28.	Nephritis ... ..					4	4
29.	Puerperal sepsis ... ..					0	1
30.	Other maternal causes ... ..					0	0
31 & 32.	Premature birth and Congenital causes					10	7
33.	Suicide ... ..					1	4
34 & 35.	Other violent causes ... ..					6	7
36.	All other causes ... ..					30	37

Transferrable deaths of residents occurring outside the district, chiefly in Hospitals and Insitutions, have been included.





PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Incidence of Notifiable Disease.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Cases reported.</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Hospital.</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Scarlet fever	99	74	-
Diphtheria	53	48	5
Pneumonia	18	-	9
Enteric Fever	3	3	-
Erysipelas	16	3	-
Measles	571	3	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	6	3	1
Whooping Cough	24	-	-
Cerebro-spinal fever	8	9	2
Polio-myelitis	1	1	0
Ophthalmia neonatorum	1	-	-
Dysentery	24	-	-

SCARLET FEVER.

The cases were distributed throughout the District as follow

Glenfield	-	40
Braunstone	-	38
Blaby	-	9
Kirby Muxloe	-	4
Other parishes	-	13

DIPHTHERIA.

The cases were distributed throughout the District as follow

Glenfield	-	12
Countesthorpe	-	7
Enderby	-	7
Braunstone	-	5
Cosby	-	4
Other parishes	-	18

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

For some years, the Ministry of Health has advocated the provision by local authorities of facilities for free immunisation of the child population against diphtheria, and when I was appointed your M.O.H. in July, 1940, I soon found there was a strong desire on the part of many parents in the District that such facilities should be provided. A special report on the subject was presented by me to the Public Health Committee, and it was agreed that a scheme of free immunisation should be started, beginning with the parishes of Glenfield and Braunstone. These two parishes, especially Braunstone, adjoined the City of Leicester, in which a serious type of diphtheria





had existed for some time. Incidentally, it may be mentioned that free immunisation had been provided in the City since 1936.

This arrangement having been approved by the Council, the work was started in October in Glenfield, with the warm co-operation of the Infant Welfare Centre, the Hon. Secretary of which organization (Mrs. Foss) volunteered to render all the necessary assistance, with school children as well as those below school age.

Altogether, it was found necessary to pay four visits to this village. In Glenfield, as in all the schools since visited, the head teachers and their staffs have rendered most willing support and co-operation.

Glenfield having been dealt with, Braunstone was then taken in hand, first the Ravenhurst Road School, which required five visits, then the Infant Welfare Centre, (four visits), then Holmfield Avenue School, (five visits). The detailed report on these areas belongs to the year 1941.

#### GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION.

By the end of the year 1940, the Ministry of Health decided to take up immunisation against diphtheria as a national question. Hitherto, they had only recommended it. They now issued a fresh circular from which it was evident that all local authorities were expected to make the necessary provision. As an additional inducement, the Ministry agreed to supply local authorities with the necessary immunising material (toxoid) free of charge.

Your Committee and Council then decided that this scheme should be extended to include the whole of the Blaby R.D.

Your M.O.H. agreed to do the immunisation personally as part of his work as M.O.H., any out of pocket expenses, (the chief of them being the remuneration of a lay assistant), being defrayed by your Council. Under this arrangement, the cost for immunisation per child is much less than under any alternative arrangement, e.g. having the work done by private practitioners.

In due course, the figures for the whole District will be given, including, as far as this is possible, the percentage immunised of the



total child population.

As regards the response on the part of the parents, this, on the whole, has been fairly satisfactory. Many are very anxious to have their children protected, but a certain number are opposed to any form of inoculation on principle. However, the fact that immunisation against diphtheria causes only trifling interference with health (with very few exceptions) - very much less indeed than is the case with some forms of inoculation - is helping to overcome this opposition. As regards our own experience in the Blaby R.D. we have been fortunate so far in having experienced no really serious re-actions, local or general; at least, if any such has occurred, they have not been brought to my notice. A few children have suffered from a swollen arm, lasting a day or two, but only a few of them have had to miss any time from school in consequence.

#### DIPHTHERIA AFTER IMMUNISATION.

It is altogether too soon to attempt to comment upon the effect of immunisation in the Blaby District as regards its effect in protecting against diphtheria. We must be prepared, however, judging from the experience of other places, for a few isolated instances now and then of children who have received both doses and who nevertheless develop mild attacks, even after the three months interval necessary for the protection to develop.

#### ENTERIC FEVER.

Three cases of this disease were reeported during the year, in one family living at Braunstone. These were traced to a previous case which had occurred in another member of the family and who had returned home from hospital some time previously, presumably cured. When the subsequent cases occurred, it was discovered that the first case, although apparently quite well, was excreting typhoid bacilli, (B.Typhosus). He was again removed to Hospital and detained for five months, but he proved to be a chronic "carrier", and finally, with the full concurrence of the Ministry of Health, he was allowed to return home and to school, being kept under general surveillance by your M.O.H. There is no reason to think that any further cases have arisen from this case.





The problem of the chronic carrier of B. Typhosus is a very difficult one, and it has not yet been solved.

#### DYSENTERY.

Twenty four cases were reported early in January of the year under review, but they were part of the outbreak at Croft which had started at the end of 1939, and which was reported upon by the late Dr. O'Connor in his Report for 1939. No further outbreak has occurred.

#### MEASLES.

This disease has been prevalent in most parts of the District during the year. With the outbreak of war, the Ministry of Health decided to make measles and whooping cough notifiable diseases, and 571 cases of measles were notified. I have for many years been of the opinion that it is a sheer waste of time and money to make measles and whooping cough notifiable when epidemics occur. They usually occur with such violence that it is practically impossible to take any effective measure to combat them, even in normal times, and it is still more out of the question in war time. I believe this view is shared by many other Medical Officers of Health. I, for one, shall be very glad when notification is withdrawn.

#### WHOOPING COUGH.

This disease was much less prevalent than measles, and only 24 cases were reported.

#### LABORATORY WORK.

In connection with the diagnosis and supervision of Infectious Disease the following examinations were made at the County Council's Laboratory:-

Sputa for Tuberculosis	...	...	...	124
Swabs for Diphtheria	...	...	...	276
Milk examinations (bacteriological)	...			136
Urine (General and bacteriological)	...			37
Urine for Tuberculosis	...	...	...	22
" " B.Typhosus	,,	...	...	1
Widal Tests for Typhoid Fever	...	...		14
Focces for B.Typhosus	...	...	...	9
Blood for Wasserman test	...	...		-
Films for gonococci	...	...	...	6
Differential blood counts	...	...		10
Hair for ringworm	...	...	...	2
Sewage and water analysis	...	...		19
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	6
Total:-				662





## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

These remain much the same as in previous years. A detailed account is this year omitted, but the following abbreviated particulars are taken from the report of Mr. A. Stevens, Sanitary Inspector:

### (1) WATER.

No. of Wells closed ... ..	17
Piped Supply substituted for Well Water ... ..	39

### (2) DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE.

Cesspools abolished ... ..	22
Extension of Sewer to Glen Parva Barracks.	
Sewers, Croft and Huncote.	
Completion of Sewage Works at Braunstone.	

### (3) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Pail Closets converted to water carriage ... ..	57
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### (6) SANITARY INSPECTION.

Complaints received ... ..	74
Inspections made ... ..	2368
Revisits ... ..	712
Notices (preliminary) issued. Housing 71. Others 34.	105
Notices (stationary) issued. " 12. " 7.	19

### (7) SHOPS.

Sanitary Conveniences. Defects remedied. ... ..	35
Ventilation. " " ... ..	4

### (13) INSPECTION OF FOOD.

Cow keepers. No. of inspections ... ..	272
Contraventions remedied ... ..	60

### PURVEYORS OF MILK.

Inspections ... ..	41
Contraventions remedied ... ..	29

### MILK SAMPLING.

Samples taken for bacteriological examination ...	18
Satisfactory ... ..	16



## HOUSING.

(1) Inspection of Dwelling Houses.

	Dwelling House inspected ... ..	914
	Inspections made ... ..	1646
(2)	Defective houses rendered fit by informal action ...	49
(5) (a)	Housing Act, 1936: Houses in respect of which formal notices were served ...	12
	Rendered fit ... ..	4
(b)	Public Health Act: Houses in respect of which notices were served ... ..	17
	No. in which defects were remedied ...	15
(4)	<u>Housing Act, 1936. Overcrowding.</u>	
	No. of new cases of overcrowding ...	28
	No. relieved ... ..	26
	No. of persons concerned in such cases	133

(Signed) C. Killick Millard, M.D., D.Sc. (Pub. Health)

Medical Officer of Health  
(from July 1st, 1940)

The Gilroes,

Leicester.

28th August, 1941.

